

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Rhode Island.—In August, 1892, it was my good fortune to procure a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*), at Newport, Rhode Island. The bird was a young female, and was taken in a small grove of pine trees. When first perceived it was standing on the ground apparently unconcerned as to its surroundings. Upon my approach the bird did not appear intimidated but began to walk along slowly under the trees. It was very easily shot. This is the first one of this species that I have seen in Newport, and I think it rather a rare occurrence.—J. LIVERMORE, *New York City*.

High Plumage in the Ptarmigan.—Early in January, I received a box of Grouse in the flesh from Mr. Thomas J. Egan of Halifax, N. S., among which were a pair of Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) from Newfoundland. One of these, a male, had the shafts of the secondaries black and was therefore probably *L. alleni*, but the most striking thing about the plumage was the very evident tinge of rose-color, which was deepest on the rump and on the sides under the wings. The bird was examined in daylight and there was no mistaking its very high coloration. It was equally clear that the color was not adventitious or due to any external influence. The shading was so delicate that I felt sure it would fade from a skin and so the specimen was not preserved. My attention has again been called to the matter, however, by another male *L. lagopus*, which I have recently received from Mr. William Clark of Winnipeg, to whom I am indebted for other birds also. This specimen was larger than the first and the rosy tint was more intense being especially clear on the sides, making the bird by far the handsomest one of its species which I have ever seen. Possibly this high plumage may have been recorded by others but it is not mentioned by the authorities to whom I have access.—HUBERT LYMAN CLARK, *Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Capture of *Ceryle torquata* (Linn.) at Laredo, Texas. A Species New to the United States.—Mr. George B. Benners of Philadelphia recently brought to me for identification a Kingfisher which he had secured near Laredo, Texas, and which proved to be an adult female of the Ringed Kingfisher, *Ceryle torquata*, which, so far as I am aware, has not been previously recorded farther north than southern Mexico.

Mr. Benners states that he shot the bird on June 2, 1888, about one mile below Laredo on the United States side of the Rio Grande. It was sitting on some old roots which had been washed up into a heap by the current of the river, and was shot immediately, so that he did not see it fly or hear its call. Mr. Benners further states that he never saw one of these birds in the vicinity either before or since. Upon the strength of the evidence just given this species seems entitled to a place in the fauna of the United States, along with the several other tropical birds which occasionally reach the Rio Grande valley.

Mr. Benners has generously presented the specimen to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (No. 30,517, Coll. A. N. S. Phila.).—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*